

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Military Units and Fortifications in the Kyustendil Area	DATE DISTR.	9 March 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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#### Military Units in the Kyustendil Area

1. An unidentified infantry unit, located in Lozno (N42-18, E22-39), five kilometers northwest of Kyustendil, is quartered in a 2-story masonry building which formerly housed the Lozno school. [redacted] approximately 1,000 infantry troops are quartered here. 25X1
2. An unidentified armored unit, is located in Zhilentsi (N 42-16, E 22-28), west-southwest of Kyustendil. The unit is quartered in the village school and in many private homes. [redacted] 20 tanks and [redacted] additional tanks are located here. [redacted] Because of a lack of suitable parking places, the tanks are located outside the village and are hidden under hay-stacks and watched by armed guards. 25X1
3. Unidentified infantry units are located in Zhilentsi and are subordinate to regiments based in Kyustendil. These units worked for six months, until August 1951, on the excavation of a new trench line on the left bank of the Struma River. (For a sketch of this trench line, and the surrounding area, see appendix on page 3).
4. Additional unidentified infantry units are located in Vratsa (N 42-15, E 22-34) and in Banintsi (N 42-15, E 22-29).

#### Fortifications in the Kyustendil Area

5. A first line of trenches built in 1950-1951, parallels the border, running between it and the village of Kyustendil. Between February and August 1951, a new line of trenches was built on the left bank of the Struma River and east of Kyustendil.
6. The newly constructed trench-line is built along the river, between it and the following villages: Perivol (N 42-22, E 22-39), Shiskovtsi (N 42-21, E 22-43), Kopolovtsi (N 42-20, E 22-43), Konyavo (N 42-20, E 22-47), Gorna Grashtitsa

25 YEAR  
RE-REVIEW

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC									
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(N 42-19, E 22-48), Dolna Grashtitsa (N 42-18, E 22-47), Bagrentsi (N 42-17, E 22-46), Katrishte (N 42-18, E 22-50, and Kadin Most (N 42-15, E 22-52).

7. Labor employed for this project was exclusively military. Between the river and each of the villages listed in Para. 6, a trench approximately 300 meters in length has been built. Each trench sector is approximately 500 meters away from the sectors on its right and on its left. The Kopolovtsi sector however, is two kilometers away from the Konyavo sector.
8. The trenches have the following characteristics:
  - a. Length: approximately 300 meters;
  - b. Width: 2-2.5 meters;
  - c. Height: approximately the height of a man;
  - d. Walls: stone and concrete, approximately one meter thick;
  - e. Flooring: cement; and
  - f. Top: stone and concrete 35 centimeters above the ground, and approximately 35 centimeters thick, supported by a small, round concrete columns, with a diameter of 8-10 centimeters, and set 10 meters apart from each other.
9. A Bulgarian lieutenant colonel from the Army engineers was in charge of the construction project and, after completing the work, deserted to Yugoslavia with 14 soldiers

#### New Military Road

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10. A new military road has been built from Zemen (N 42-28, E 22-26) to Boboshevo (N 42-09, E 22-59), passing through Kyustendil. This new road has started in February 1951 and completed in August 1951 and is approximately 30 kilometers long and eight meters wide, with a rolled earth surface and no gravelling. There are two bridges along this road, as follows:
  - a. An old, single-span bridge, crossing the Struma River at Kadin Most; a stone structure of the Roman period, approximately 250 meters long and eight meters wide; and
  - b. Two other stone bridges crossing the Struma River, of unknown length, approximately eight meters wide and with an unknown number of spans; bridges were built during the construction of the road.

#### Miscellaneous Information

11. The border area is guarded by the Army and by the members of the Dürzhavna Sigurnost (State Security). Each unit is equipped with several trained dogs. The members of the Dürzhavna Sigurnost, who wear uniforms in the interior parts of Bulgaria, wear civilian clothes in the Border Areas.

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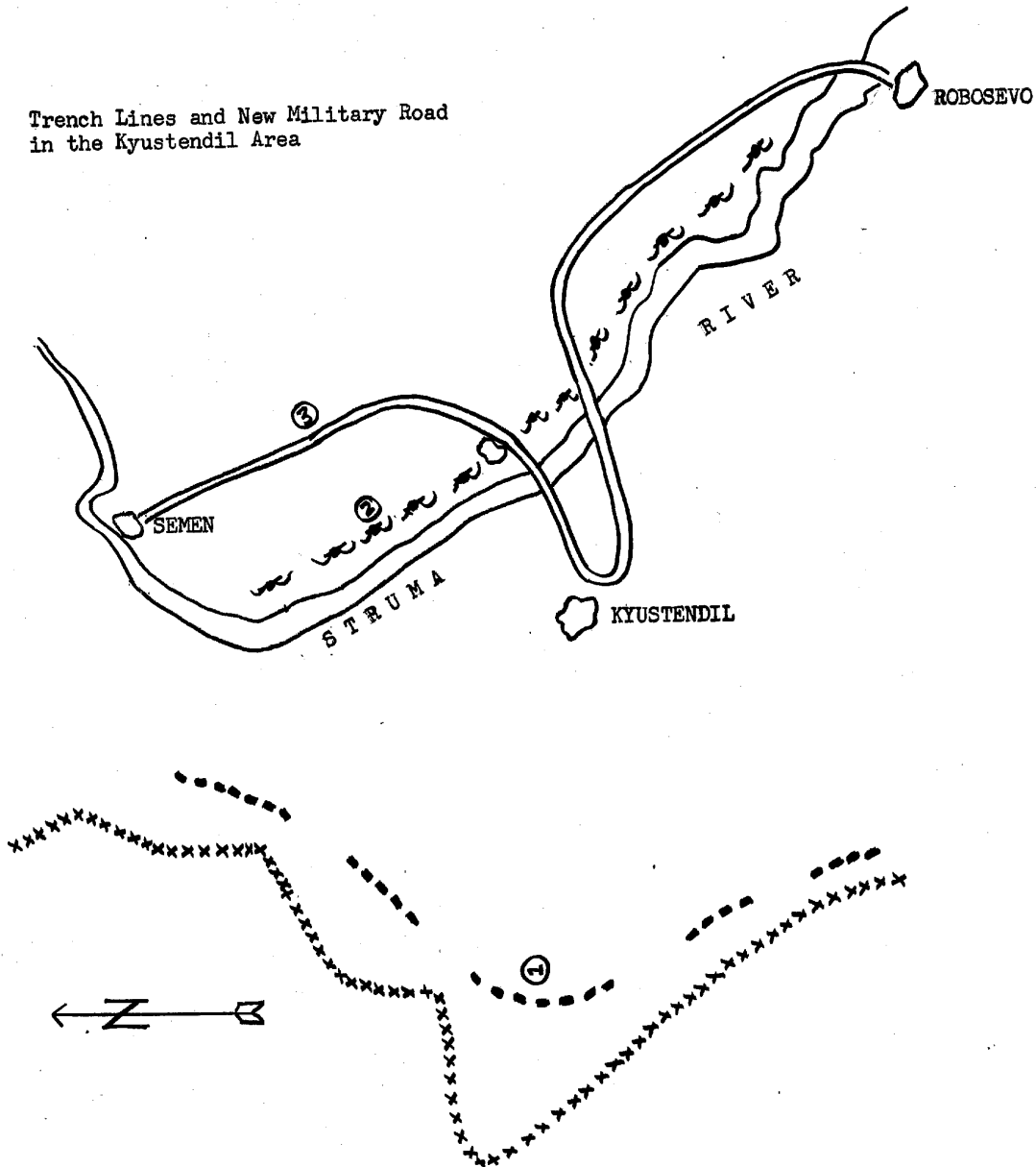
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12. Many officers of all service branches have been [redacted] in Kyustendil. [redacted] among these there are several Soviet officers who wear Bulgarian Army uniforms. They do not mix with the local population nor do they go to public places, or shops. [redacted] They always circulate in groups and only one of the group, allegedly a Bulgarian officer acting as interpreter and escort, speaks to third parties when necessary. [redacted]

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Trench Lines and New Military Road  
in the Kyustendil Area



1. Lines of Old Trenches
2. Line of New Trenches
3. New Military Road

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